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INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
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RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2632
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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1010
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 3023
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2408
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS BE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BISHKEK 000895

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ECON](#) [ENRG](#) [MARR](#) [KG](#)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH KYRGYZ FOREIGN POLICY
ADVISOR

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Classified By: Ambassador Tatiana Gfoeller, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Summary: Presidential foreign policy advisor Ryskulov warmly welcomed the Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan during a September 3 introductory meeting. He told the Ambassador that while the September 5 Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) meeting in Moscow would discuss the situation in Georgia, we could "be calm" regarding any decisions or resolutions from the summit. Ryskulov said that Russia had a "right" to recognize South Ossetia and Abkhazia, but Russia also had "international obligations" to the other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries. He said that the situation should be resolved through peaceful negotiations, in line with the Sarkozy cease-fire agreement. Ambassador thanked Ryskulov for Kyrgyzstan's continued support in the war against terrorism and for the Manas Coalition Air Base, and Ryskulov asked for additional assistance to combat narcotics trafficking from Afghanistan. Ryskulov also expressed serious concern over water and electricity, but hoped that a September 9 ministerial-level meeting of Central Asian countries would yield progress on a way forward. End summary.

¶2. (C) Ambassador met September 3 with Islan Ryskulov, Head of the Foreign Policy Department at the Presidential Administration. Ryskulov warmly welcomed the Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan and expressed appreciation for continued U.S. assistance. Ryskulov noted that the United States had supported Kyrgyzstan since its independence, and he pointed to the American University in Central Asia as a positive example of our cooperation.

¶3. (C) Ryskulov said that Kyrgyzstan had achieved stability and made economic progress in the past three years, noting that the state budget had more than doubled during this time. However, he said, Kyrgyzstan faced a number of serious issues, including a serious water shortage in its hydroelectric cascade. Ryskulov explained that Kyrgyzstan had released more water than usual last winter, in part to help ease the "catastrophic situation" in Tajikistan, but now

Kyrgyzstan needed to conserve water to keep the Toktogul reservoir from reaching a critically low level. He outlined how the Central Asian countries were dependent on each other for water, gas, and coal, and he said the Central Asian countries would hold a ministerial-level meeting September 9-10 in Almaty to discuss cooperation on water and energy.

¶4. (C) Turning to the situation in Georgia, Ambassador expressed appreciation that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit had not moved to recognize the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and she asked Ryskulov what he expected from the September 5 CSTO summit in Moscow. Ryskulov responded that while Russia had a "right" to recognize the independence of those territories, Russia also had "international obligations" to the other CIS states. Ryskulov said that the CSTO summit would discuss this "complicated issue," but he assured the Ambassador that we could "be calm" regarding any decisions or resolutions that would come from the summit. He said that the situation in Georgia should be resolved peacefully through negotiations, in line with the cease-fire agreement worked out by French President Sarkozy.

¶5. (C) Ambassador thanked Ryskulov for Kyrgyzstan's continued support in the war against terrorism and for hosting the Manas Coalition Air Base. She said that the Coalition would likely concentrate efforts in Afghanistan in the coming months, making Manas even more important. Ryskulov said that all of the regional organizations -- SCO, CSTO, and CIS -- were concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, particularly the increase in narcotics trafficking. Ryskulov said it was necessary to deal with this problem quickly, as narco-trafficking led to increased corruption and crime, and

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he asked for additional U.S. assistance in combating narcotics trafficking in Kyrgyzstan.

¶6. (C) Ambassador said that she was committed to working with the Kyrgyz government to combat corruption, particularly through the Millennium Challenge Account program. Ryskulov said that combating corruption was a top priority of President Bakiyev, and there was a plan to deal with corruption in the judiciary, law enforcement, and customs in order to restore the people's confidence in authorities.

¶7. (C) Ryskulov also raised the issue of the U.S. intention to provide \$150 million in assistance per year to Kyrgyzstan in connection with hosting the Manas Air Base, and he said he had questions about how the United States was meeting that "commitment." Ambassador said she would be happy to meet to discuss in detail U.S. assistance programs.

¶8. (C) Comment: Despite raising the difficult "\$150 million" issue, Ryskulov was remarkably warm and positive throughout this introductory meeting. He emphasized the historic relationship between the United States and Kyrgyzstan, and he noted that many in Kyrgyzstan appreciated that U.S. support had been there since independence. Ryskulov gave every indication of wanting to build a strong working relationship with the new Ambassador.
GFOELLER